CANADIAN FILM INSTITUTE

BULLETIN

142 SPARKS STREET, OTTAWA

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WHAT IS THE CANADIAN FILM INSTITUTE?

The only national organization that represents and brings together Canada's educational, scientific, cultural and community interests in the field of documentary films. It is a non-profit, non-government organization that functions as a co-ordinator and national distributor of non-theatrical films in Canada. It is Canada's National Film Library.

WHO IS THE CANADIAN FILM INSTITUTE?

Is there another organization in Canada that embraces in its membership so many varied Canadian interests? Business and Industry are represented along with Labour. Universities and Departments of Education and School Boards are members. Governments - Federal, Provincial and Municipal - belong. Voluntary organizations representing many different national interests, consumers both rural and urban, film producers, film sponsors and film users - all are part of C.F.I. French-speaking and English-speaking interests are served. Everybody in Canada who works with films is a member or a potential member of the Institute.

WHY IS THE CANADIAN FILM INSTITUTE?

Canadians have been using films for a long, long time. Canadians needed films for many reasons, not the least of which was the need of learning about Canada. Not all Canadians have the chance to see all of Canada but a reel of film can go anywhere. People in all parts of Canada want films; there is real need of a national film library containing a great number of special subject films not generally available in provincial and other film collections. People want to learn what films are available; there is need of a central clearing house for information about films.

WHAT DOES THE CANADIAN FILM INSTITUTE DO?

1. It provides access to a library of 5,300 film titles.
2. It provides films for preview in subjects in which people are interested.
3. It imports films from foreign countries, and clears films through Customs for members and others.
4. It assists in devising distribution plans and in program planning.
5. It provides information about the availability of films in subjects in which people are interested.
6. It compiles and distributes special annotated lists of films on subjects like - Productivity, Supervisory Training, Personnel Training, Industrial Safety, Labour Relations, Building, Vocational Guidance, Hunting, Fishing, Wild Life, Language, Music, Fine Arts, Office Practice and many others.
7. It provides evaluations of films in specific subject areas.
8. It provides evaluations of sponsored films.
9. It is a co-sponsor of Canadian Film Awards and through these brings recognition to Canadian films and their producers and sponsors.
10. It publishes regular bulletins containing information for film users not readily available from other sources.
11. It provides a distributing service for Canada of the film products of the governments of many other countries.
12. It helps national organizations with policy and program in their use of audio-visual aids.

HOW OLD IS THE CANADIAN FILM INSTITUTE?

It was organized in 1935 as the National Film Society by a group of far-sighted public-spirited citizens who were aware of the wider implications of the motion picture in Canadian culture and education. In 1950 the name was changed to Canadian Film Institute. At present C.F.I. is being reorganized and its services are being extended. For this expansion program the Institute is seeking more help.

HOW IS THE CANADIAN FILM INSTITUTE SUPPORTED?

Most of the revenue comes from membership fees and service charges. Occasionally through the years since 1935 there have been grants for specific projects from the Carnegie Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation and the British Imperial Trust. From time to time interested individuals and corporations have made generous contributions. In 1954 the Government of Canada, through the National Film Board provided a grant, payable in three annual installments. C.F.I. needs the greater financial participation of individuals and organizations concerned with the use of film in Canadian life.

WHAT OTHER FUNCTIONS DOES THE CANADIAN FILM INSTITUTE PERFORM?

C.F.I.'s Scientific Division brings together Science Film Societies and provides films and film evaluations to those people who are particularly interested in scientific films.

The 500 specialized films in the Medical Library of the Scientific Division are available to medical faculties, doctors, hospitals and nursing groups.

Through its National Business Film Service C.F.I. provides business and industry with films, assistance in programming, and evaluations.

The Film Society Division of C.F.I. brings together seventy Film Societies across Canada. A Film Society is a group of people who are interested in seeing, at regular intervals, programs of foreign films, older films and classics not ordinarily seen in commercial theatres.

C.F.I. has been working toward the establishment of a Canadian Film Archive. There are many valuable Canadian documentary films that should be assembled and preserved.

The C.F.I. houses and distributes such special film libraries as the National Health Film Library and the Physical Fitness Film Library, besides the films of organizations like the Boy Scouts Association, the Co-operative Union of Canada and the National Safety Council.

C.F.I. acts as the agent for distribution of the films of foreign countries like the United States, the Netherlands, Japan, Sweden and Norway.

It is the agent for the Canadian distribution of films of the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and other Commonwealth countries.

WHAT ABOUT INFORMATION ON FILMS?

The Canadian Film Institute is the national clearing house for information about films.

C.F.I. will tell you what films are available and where they are in Canada. If films are not available in Canada, C.F.I. will know where they are and how to get them. The Institute can provide information about sources, the needs, methods of distribution of films as well as information about film titles in specific subjects.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

If you have a question about films that is not answered here, the Institute will be pleased to hear from you. Simply write

CANADIAN FILM INSTITUTE,
142 SPARKS STREET,
OTTAWA 4, ONTARIO.